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 FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5397
 INFO RUEABND/HQSDEA WASHDC
 RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 7018
 RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 7911
 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0528
 RUHFMB/USMISSION USVIENNA 0014
 RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
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DEA HQS FOR OH, OI, OIOH, OF
 BANGKOK FOR NAU
 HONG KONG FOR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR
 ISLAMABAD FOR NAU
 VIENNA FOR UNVIE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR
 CINCPAC FOR FPA JOHN D. FINNEY, JR.

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: SNAR, BM
 SUBJECT: NARCOTICS MONTHLY REPORT - JANUARY 1988

1. (C) FATAL CRASH OF THRUSH AIRCRAFT

ON JANUARY 11, 1988, THRUSH AIRCRAFT NUMBER 2404, PILOTED BY BURMA AIR FORCE MAJOR SAN HTWE, CRASHED DURING SPRAYING OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHERN SHAN STATE NEAR LASHIO. ON JANUARY 15, MAJOR SAN HTWE DIED OF BURNS RECEIVED IN THE CRASH. THE CO-PILOT, CAPTAIN ZIN YAW IS RECOVERING. ACCORDING TO BURMA AIR FORCE INITIAL REPORTS, THE PLANE LOST POWER ON A SPRAYING RUN. THE PILOT DUMPED HIS LOAD OF HERBICIDE BUT COULD NOT GAIN SUFFICIENT ALTITUDE AND CRASHED INTO A TREE AT THE END OF THE FIELD. THE BURMA AIR FORCE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING (SEE RANGOON 0186 AND 0345).

2. (C) VISIT OF CODEL RANGEL TO BURMA

A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FROM THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS AND DRUG ABUSE, LED BY CHAIRMAN CHARLES B. RANGEL, VISITED RANGOON ON JANUARY 20, 1988. DURING THE BRIEF VISIT THE CODEL HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND DISCUSS NARCOTICS ISSUES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER U YE GOUNG AND HOME MINISTER U MIN GAUNG. THE CODEL WAS BRIEFED BY DEPUTY HOME MINISTER COLONEL KHIN MAUNG WIN ON BURMA'S ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO ATTENDING A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY COLONEL KHIN MAUNG WIN AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER U SAW HLAING. CHAIRMAN RANGEL THANKED THE HOME MINISTER FOR BURMA'S CON-

*Rep Rangel
 OHC*

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TINUING ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES AND EXPRESSED CON-
DOLENCES ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESS FOR THE LIVES
LOST IN THE FIGHT (SEE RANGOON 0450).

3. (C) TRI-EMBASSY NARCOTICS REVIEW MEETING

THE TRI-EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL REVIEW MEETING
WAS HELD IN BANGKOK JANUARY 7-8. THE MEETING RE-
VIEWED RECENT NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING
TRENDS, FOCUSING ON THE ROLE OF THE INSURGENT GROUPS
ALONG THE THAI/BURMA BORDER. PRELIMINARY DATA FROM
BOTH THAILAND AND BURMA INDICATE THAT OPIUM PRODUCTION
IN 1987/1988 WILL BE ABOUT THE SAME AS IN 1986/1987.
THE THAI PROGRAM WILL INCREASINGLY SHIFT RESOURCES
INTO LAW ENFORCEMENT, WHILE IN BURMA THE EMPHASIS
WILL CONTINUE TO BE ON THE AERIAL ERADICATION PRO-
GRAM. THE SHIFT OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTION TO LAOS WAS
CITED AS THE MOST NOTEWORTHY CHANGE IN TRAFFICKING
PATTERNS IN THE REGION. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE
SECURITY THREAT IN NORTHERN THAILAND WILL CONTINUE
TO AFFECT ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES FOR THE FORESEE-
ABLE FUTURE. THAI/BURMESE COOPERATION APPEARS TO BE
BUILDING SLOWLY, BUT NO ONE EXPECTS FULL-SCALE, CO-
ORDINATED OPERATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE (SEE BANGKOK
4533).

4. (C) 1987/88 POPPY ERADICATION

THE AERIAL SPRAYING OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHERN SHAN
STATE WERE COMPLETED ON JANUARY 28, 1988. U THEIN
AUNG, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE
REPORTED THAT MANUAL ERADICATION OPERATIONS WERE CON-
TINUING. AS OF JANUARY 28, THE SRUB REPORTED A TOTAL
OF 30,000 ACRES OF POPPY DESTROYED, 28,000 BY AERIAL
SPRAYING AND 2,000 MANUALLY. INITIAL REPORTS FROM
AREAS SPRAYED INDICATE A HIGH RATE OF DESTRUCTION.
THE BURMESE STILL HOPE TO ATTAIN THE GOAL OF 50,000
ACRES ERADICATED BY THE END OF THE CAMPAIGN.

5. (U) SEIZURES REPORTED BY PEOPLE'S POLICE

THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING
CASE LOAD AND SEIZURE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1988:
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NARCOTIC DRUG	CASES	WEIGHT IN KILOGRAMS
OPIUM	25	98.18
MORPHINE	2	15.00
HEROIN	45	.69
CANNABIS	41	24.87

6. (LOU) VISIT OF INM DESK OFFICER

INM DESK OFFICER FOR BURMA AND THAILAND, AL NUGENT,

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VISITED RANGOON JANUARY 12-16, 1988 FOR PROGRAM ORIENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS. IN ADDITION TO BRIEFINGS IN THE EMBASSY FROM THOSE ELEMENTS CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL, MR. NUGENT ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH U TIN TUN, DIRECTOR (NARCOTICS) PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE, VISIT THE BURMA AIR FORCE HEAVY MAINTENANCE REPAIR FACILITY AT MINGLADON, AND VISIT WITH DR. U KHANT AT THE RANGOON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL. THE TRIP NOT ONLY PROVIDED MR. NUGENT WITH A BETTER GRASP OF PROGRAM REALITIES IN BURMA BUT ALSO OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW OLD ACQUAINTANCES WITH THE BURMESE SINCE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN RANGOON.

7. (LOU) AVIATION SUPPORT

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AVIATION SUPPORT AREA WERE ADDRESSED:

--AVIATION ADVISOR COOLEY VISITED SINGAPORE JANUARY 26-28 AND MET WITH OUR AVIATION SUPPORT CONTRACTORS TO REVIEW OUR SUPPORT PROGRAMS. OF PRIMARY INTEREST WAS OUR T-53 ENGINE OVERHAUL SCHEDULE. IT IS ON HOLD UNTIL THE BURMA AIR FORCE TESTS THE TWO FRESH OVERHAULS RECEIVED IN NOVEMBER.

--MR. BROCK WRIGHT, BELL HELICOPTER ASIA, HAS ADVISED THAT AFTER AN EVALUATION BY BELL TEXTRON, THE ROTOR AND BLADE OF THE BELL 206 INVOLVED IN A BLADE STRIKE IN OCTOBER 1987 WILL HAVE TO BE SCRAPPED AS THEY ARE NOT AIRWORTHY.

--BAF STATES THAT ONE, AND POSSIBLE TWO, T-53 ENGINES WILL BE READY FOR TBO EXTENSION INSPECTION THE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY. THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY IN THIS SCHEDULE DUE TO THE LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF MR. TONY HAMILTON, OUR EVALUATOR FROM HAWKER DE HAVILLAND.

8. (U) AVIATION ADVISOR TDY

MR. ROBERT COOLEY, AVIATION ADVISOR, VISITED BANGKOK JANUARY 23-26, AT THE REQUEST OF NAU TO MEET WITH AVIATION ADVISOR TED UNTALAN AND THAI POLICE AIR WING OFFICIALS PRIOR TO MR. UNTALAN'S DEPARTURE UPON COMPLETION OF CONTRACT. DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A ROLE FOR AN AVIATION ADVISOR IN THAILAND AND HOW THE NEED SHOULD BE MET. EMBASSY RANGOON WISHES TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR PAST SERVICES OF TED UNTALAN WHICH WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS IN BURMA WHICH HAVE MADE OUR SUCCESSES TO DATE POSSIBLE.

9. (U) LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OF ARRESTS AND SEIZURES

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ELEVEN NARCOTICS RELATED ARRESTS RESULTING IN THE SEIZURE OF 3.27 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM, .15 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN, 7.69 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA, 550 AMPULES OF MORPHINE, 84 BOTTLES OF PHENSEDYL COUGH MIXTURE, AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA. TWENTY-FIVE TRIALS AND CONVICTIONS FOR DRUG RELATED CHARGES WERE REPORTED WITH

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SENTENCES RANGING FROM FIVE TO TEN YEARS AND FINES UP
TO 50,000 KYAT BEING IMPOSED BY THE COURTS (USD ONE
EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 6 KYAT).

10. (U) DEMAND/REDUCTION

THE ACTIVE BURMESE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTINUES WITH A TOTAL OF FOUR ANTI-DRUG EDITORIALS NOTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS DURING JANUARY. THESE WERE OBSERVED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND BURMESE LANGUAGE PAPERS. ALSO DURING THE PERIOD, ANTI-NARCOTICS ART COMPETITIONS AND ESSAY CONTESTS CONTINUED IN THE SCHOOLS AND ANTI-NARCOTICS RALLIES CONTINUED IN TOWNSHIPS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

11. (LOU) AIRCRAFT STATUS

DURING MEETINGS WITH BURMA AIR FORCE THIS REPORTING PERIOD, THE FOLLOWING AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY STATUS WAS PROVIDED:

-BELL 205 HELICOPTERS - 10 FLYABLE, 7 IN REPAIR
-BELL 206 HELICOPTERS - 4 FLYABLE, 2 IN REPAIR
-BELL 212 HELICOPTER - FLYABLE
-FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT - 3 FLYABLE, 1 IN REPAIR AND ONE GROUNDED WITH EXTENSIVE CRASH DAMAGE
THRUSH AIRCRAFT - 4 FLYABLE. LEVIN
END OF MESSAGE

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